

EUGENE WEEKLY

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ILLUSTRATION BY MCKENZIE YOUNG-ROY



MENTAL HEALTH HEARTACHE

Two business execs and a county commissioner dig in against Lane County behavioral health center

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OPINION

letters

EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS AND MORE

SPS Cutting Off Its Own Leg

Public education in Springfield faces two major hits this year. Budget shortfalls have the city looking at a massive cut to library funding, while the school district just decided to fire dozens of teachers mid-school year. Why should one service or staff classification bear the brunt of ALL cuts? Why not take a little from admin, tech subscriptions, and other operations?

Nothing sensible operates this way. If I want to lose 25 pounds, I don't cut off a leg and declare my goals met. If my personal spending needs reigning in, I cut back in multiple places: dining, entertainment, that used-book habit...

Both these cuts are exclusively to entities whose sole purpose is to serve our community. This isn't logical from a community service or business perspective.

We already know the library brings extra foot traffic (and sales) to downtown small businesses. We also know that schools reducing class options and increasing class sizes discourages enrollment. That means both cuts continue a cycle of lower revenue and smaller budgets.

It's a shame that educational services are being targeted. As we can tell from these decisions, Springfield is already educationally underserved. Thankfully, we're periodically given the chance to vote for new decision-makers.

*Ky Fireside
Springfield*

Community College vs. Corporate College

I have taught at Lane Community College for over 20 years, and I have never

felt so demoralized as I do under this current administration. The situation at Lane reminds me of all of those documentaries where a Big City Corporation comes to a small town in order to dismantle the local economy before taking away all the resources for themselves. To date, this administration has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of the college's budget on slick anti-labor lawyers, been found guilty of email surveillance of the labor union, and misrepresented budget numbers. All of this in the name of an agenda aimed at stripping away worker protections, rights, and benefits while simultaneously increasing workloads and class sizes to the great detriment of the educational quality of the students. Trying to provide your students a high-quality education is hard enough without having to worry about losing your job at any moment in order to maximize output efficiency. I hope, for the sake of the students, we don't end up striking, but I also hope, for the sake of the students, that a strike will show this administration we stand together in protecting our community college from hostile forces that only seem to care about their own agenda, and who seemingly refuse to listen to the voices of the very people who make up the community they are supposed to serve.

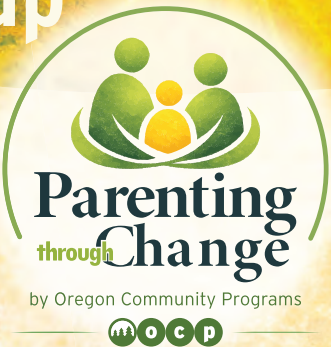
*Jose Chaves
Lane Community College,
English faculty instructor
Eugene*

ICE 'Loves' the Constitution

My name is Ulises Demian Rivera Garcia. This is a really important topic that is important to me because I come from immigrant parents and other parents and families' rights are getting violated or ignored. Recently, with our current administration, we have seen our government start to deploy mass immigration raids all over the country. With ICE deporting thousands of people, they have been ignoring their right to due process, which every person has a right to.



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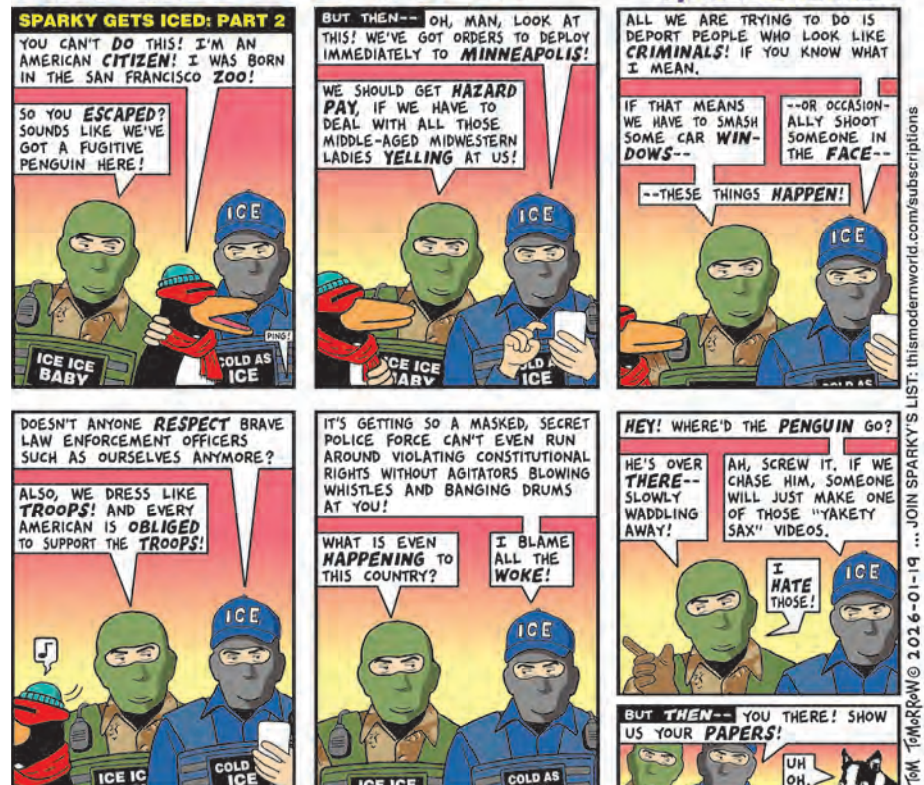
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



SPARKY GETS ICED: PART 2
YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN! I WAS BORN IN THE SAN FRANCISCO ZOO!

SO YOU ESCAPED? SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT A FUGITIVE PENGUIN HERE!

ICE ICE BABY

BUT THEN-- OH, MAN, LOOK AT THIS! WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO DEPLOY IMMEDIATELY TO MINNEAPOLIS!

WE SHOULD GET HAZARD PAY, IF WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THOSE MIDDLE-AGED MIDWESTERN LADIES YELLING AT US!

ICE ICE BABY

ALL WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS DEPORT PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE CRIMINALS! IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

IF THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO SMASH SOME CAR WINDOWS--

--OR OCCASIONALLY SHOOT SOMEONE IN THE FACE--

--THESE THINGS HAPPEN!

ICE ICE BABY

DOESN'T ANYONE RESPECT BRAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SUCH AS OURSELVES ANYMORE?

ALSO, WE DRESS LIKE TROOPS! AND EVERY AMERICAN IS OBLIGED TO SUPPORT THE TROOPS!

ICE ICE BABY

IT'S GETTING SO A MASKED, SECRET POLICE FORCE CAN'T EVEN RUN AROUND VIOLATING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WITHOUT AGITATORS BLOWING WHISTLES AND BANGING DRUMS AT YOU!

WHAT IS EVEN HAPPENING TO THIS COUNTRY?

I BLAME ALL THE WOKE!

ICE ICE BABY

HEY! WHERE'D THE PENGUIN GO?

HE'S OVER THERE-- SLOWLY WADDLING AWAY!

AH, SCREW IT, IF WE CHASE HIM, SOMEONE WILL JUST MAKE ONE OF THOSE "YAKETY SAX" VIDEOS.

I HATE THOSE!

ICE ICE BABY

BUT THEN-- YOU THERE! SHOW US YOUR PAPERS!

UH OH.

ICE ICE BABY

Due process is a right given by the 5th Amendment in the U.S. Constitution, stating that “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” ICE is ignoring this right, which every single person has, citizen or non-citizen. They are deporting people back to their country of origin without giving them a chance to a lawyer or fair court. Something needs to be done about this. The administration needs to be held accountable. The administration that supposedly loves the Constitution is constantly violating it and ignoring it in front of us and nothing is being done.

*Ulises Demian Rivera Garcia
Eugene*

Protect Watersheds, EWEB

We, the chief petitioners of Measure 20-373, are deeply troubled by EWEB Board member John Barofsky’s resolution opposing Lane County’s watershed protection ballot measure.

Barofsky has stated that he researched our measure and spoke with members of the community. However, neither he nor any other EWEB Board member contacted the Measure 20-373 campaign or the chief petitioners to discuss the substance, intent or implications of the proposed law. This is particularly concerning given that our campaign is not difficult to contact. We maintain a public website with a “Contact Us” page, and the contact information for all chief petitioners is readily available online.

As a public body entrusted with stewardship of our region’s water resources, the EWEB Board has an obligation to conduct thorough and balanced due diligence before taking positions on matters of such importance. Failing to engage directly with the authors of a watershed protection measure falls short of what the public expects from its elected officials.

We strongly believe that codifying increased rights and protections for Lane County watersheds will enhance the long-term health of these ecosystems and all life that depends on clean water. Measure 20-373 is aligned with the fundamental mission of EWEB: protecting watersheds and providing safe, clean drinking water for its customers.

We invite the EWEB Board to contact us.

We are available to meet, answer questions, and address any concerns you may have regarding Measure 20-373. Constructive dialogue is essential when decisions affecting our shared water future are at stake.

*Kunu Bearchum, Eron King
and Michelle Holman
Eugene, Blachly and Deadwood*

So Much for ‘No Child Left Behind’

America is now into its 25th year of the educational era launched in 2002 under the federal No Child Left Behind law. Its stated intention was equity for all students, but its effect has been the opposite. Kids in public school continue to face a narrowed curriculum, lockstep teaching, and over-testing. The joy of learning has been forgotten for students and teachers alike.

The pendulum can be pushed toward a better place if the public demands a rethinking of this top-down, standardized, one-size-fits-all mentality.

The Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) is holding a community forum to discuss a more balanced, more engaging public school experience on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm, at the Springfield Public Library’s large conference room. Springfield parents can learn more about this issue, ask questions, and talk about their kids’ K-5 education.

Parents in Eugene: What about your kids? Are they getting taught enough science, geography, history, art, health, civics? What about parents in Bethel: Are you satisfied with your children’s education? Please join us.

*Larry Lewin
Eugene*

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues for print. Find more letters at EugeneWeekly.com. Limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. The deadline is 9 am Monday for Thursday publication.

EMAIL TO

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Local & Vocal

EXISTENTIAL ANGST

*Hope despite generations
of troubled times*

VIEWPOINT BY VICTORIA KOCH

It’s been a difficult time lately for many families all over the world. As a retired teacher and simply an older human being, I love talking with young people. And believe me, they are talking!

My current anxiety increases as I listen to them. Their talk can be deeply dark and hopeless. They think the Baby Boom generation, of which I am one, had life easier with housing, necessities and college tuition. Everything was affordable and job opportunities were abundant.

I am a person who has to have at least some hope during troubled times. I can’t disagree with what our youth are going through and I often want to apologize to them for how our world has become. But I also believe our history has always been filled with what I want to call “existential angst.”

We have come through dark periods before and we will come through them again. This will only happen when the older and younger generations learn to listen to each other and work together. We both have to make our voices heard.

Many Baby Boomers are children of World War II parents who, like my Dad, fought against the Nazis and Fascists in Europe. It didn’t serve my German heritage Dad to soldier on the European and African front battle lines. My childhood was not easy. We were poor and my at-home mother also had to find work. I was the first to go to college, but I worked my way through, even with cheaper tuition. I lived abroad when there was East and West Germany and I experienced the results of World War II firsthand.

It wasn’t a piece of cake for us Boomers. The Vietnam War took its toll. I lost a high school friend to this war. Protests similar to today were ongoing. We lived through quite a few terrible presidents, Richard Nixon, George Bush and Ronald Reagan. We lived through the assassinations of Medgar Evers, President John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and the beloved Beatle John Lennon. Then there was the 9/11 New York World Trade Center catastrophe and the Iraq War, etc. It is hard enough just being human without all our self-caused disasters!

As I have grown up, I have naively believed we might not have wars by now. “Imagine all the people Livin’ life in peace.”

But I am seeing that we human beings are pretty stupid. We are destroying ourselves, and we are destroying Mother Earth. Yes, why do we continue to create the anxiety we are living through and when will we ever learn? Boomers, Millennials, Gen Z, Gen Alpha.

Let’s come together! “Imagine all the people/ Sharing all the world.”

Victoria Koch is a mother, a retired teacher, a writer, a gardener and a lover of the positive human spirit.

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>> Jan. 8's "Top 10 Dick Moves" and the readers' poll version ("Dick Moves: Your Move") proved popular with readers! **So we're getting a jump on next year with "Dick Moves, Pre-dick-ted."** What dick moves do you see coming from local governments and businesses? Drop us a note at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com for an upcoming issue and see at the end of 2026 what dicks came to fruition!

>> **Greenland and Denmark are in the news as part of Donald Trump's latest bat shittery.** Check out the 1992 novel *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (also a 1997 film and now a mini-series that perhaps the latest contretemps will push to Netflix) for some fictional background on Greenland or the Danish TV series *Borgen* (which *is* on Netflix) for your quirky European-Greenlandic political fix while Trump continues to play games with lives on the world stage.

>> A group of former and current Springfield students and community members

is working on a **recall against Springfield School Board Chair Heather Quaas-Annsa and members Ken Kohl and Nicole De Graff** who voted for mid-year cuts that will cost teachers their jobs. The prospective recall petition was turned in to Lane County Elections. The county says the petitioners must file their signature sheets for each petition and once approved for circulation, the group will have until April 20 to collect 4,826 signatures to get the recall on the ballot. At stake in Springfield are not just the cuts but also K-5 teachers who say they didn't have the necessary time, standards-aligned curricula and other support materials needed to teach science and social studies.

>> **Want to try to bring transparency to policing in Eugene?** The Civilian Review Board monitors the work of the city's independent police auditor, reviews closed complaint cases and gives input on the Eugene Police Department's

investigative process. The CRB is looking for two members living in Eugene, 18 or older, can pass a background check and can meet the second Tuesday evening of the month. Applications due Jan. 31. Go to Eugene-or.gov/86/Boards-and-Commissions to apply to be on the CRB, Human Rights Commission or other important service positions.

>> **Eugene City Council voted to offer the city manager position to Jenny Haruyama**, currently the Beaverton city manager. The advertised salary range was \$238,071 to \$319,218, and a start date is yet to be determined. Interim City Manager Matt Rodrigues was one of the top three candidates.

>> **At a Jan. 20 protest outside the downtown Eugene Federal Building**, over 100 students from South Eugene High School and Monroe Middle School joined forces with several 100 adults to protest ICE activity. The walkout was part of the Women's March's Free Amer-

ica Walkout. It started at the Wayne Morse U.S. Courthouse and moved to the Eugene Federal Building, joining anti-ICE protesters. Later that evening, a mix of student and adult protesters stood in front of the building's vehicle exit gate to prevent Department of Homeland Security officers from leaving. After a brief confrontation, the officers — some wearing riot gear — retreated and requested support from the Eugene Police Department, according to an EPD press release. EPD officers monitored the situation until around 6:40 pm when the students left. The federal officers again attempted to leave, but protesters prevented it. EPD's Mobile Response Team was able to convince protesters to step aside without use of force. According to a protester, one of the vehicles is known to be used by ICE to transport detainees. To everyone's delight, the feds didn't tear gas or shoot at the youth and adults exercising their First Amendment rights.

NEWS

TRUMP, '24 AND MORE

The past year has given former Rep. Peter DeFazio a lot to think about — including the failures of the Democratic Party

BY PIERCE BAUGH V

Jan. 20 marked one year since President Donald Trump announced, "The golden age of America begins right now," as his second administration regained the helm of the country.

Now in that "golden age," masked ICE officers roam the streets; foreign aid and public broadcasting have seen \$9 billion in cuts under the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which permanently extended tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans; "No Kings" protests have drawn thousands; the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention — a first-of-its-kind office created to coordinate and accelerate national efforts to reduce gun violence — has been dissolved; and environmental regulations have been rolled back.

Trump says it's no longer the Gulf of Mexico — it's now the "Gulf of America." And he's taking over Greenland.

One of Oregon's most prominent longtime political voices has been closely watching the nation's trajectory.

Former Rep. Peter DeFazio, who represented Oregon's 4th Congressional District for 36 years, in a late December interview with *Eugene Weekly*, says that he knew Democrats were in trouble even before the Electoral College began tallying votes on Nov. 5, 2024.

DeFazio, who correctly predicted Trump's 2016 victory, has become something of a political bellwether. And he's

frustrated — particularly with his own party — with the 2024 election, the Dems' response to Trump and how to handle the new version of Trump that doesn't have guardrails.

A FAILED TRANSITION

DeFazio says he believes the Democratic Party missed its opportunity long before Election Day. His chief criticism is aimed at President Joe Biden, whose presidency DeFazio viewed as transitional.

"He was supposed to be the bridge to the future," DeFazio says.

In DeFazio's view, Biden should have announced his decision not to seek reelection in 2023, giving Democrats time to hold a competitive primary. Instead, Biden exited the race late, and the nomination was effectively handed to Vice President Kamala Harris.

For DeFazio, Harris entered the race carrying the baggage of an unpopular administration without clearly distinguishing how she would govern differently. When she was asked, "What will you do differently than Joe Biden, whose approval rating is 38 percent?" her answer was nothing," he says. "Great answer. Great answer."

OLD ATTACKS, NEW CONSEQUENCES

DeFazio argues Harris was also haunted by her unsuccessful 2020 presidential run, particularly by a 2019 video in which she expressed support for incarcerated people and immigration detainees having access to gender-affirming surgery. In the video from the Trump campaign, a snippet shows her talking about supporting taxpayer-funded gender-affirming surgery for inmates. On a 2019 ACLU questionnaire, Harris responded that she supported gender-affirming surgery for inmates and those in immigration detention, though her 2024 presidential platform did not mention taxpayer-funded gender-affirming care for inmates.

That stance resurfaced in a 2024 attack ad that DeFazio compares to the infamous 1964 "Daisy" ad used against Barry Goldwater, which used the prospect of nuclear war to frighten voters. The ad highlighted Harris's prior statements and concluded with the line: "Kamala's for they/them. President Trump is for you."

Though cases of incarcerated people receiving gender-affirming surgery have been exceedingly rare — only two

in federal prisons after lengthy court battles, about 20 in California, and a handful in Illinois — DeFazio says the messaging was devastating in a political climate where many Americans lack basic health insurance.

"That ad was a killer," he says.

Ultimately, DeFazio says Harris was simply the wrong candidate for the moment.

WHO COULD HAVE WON?

Asked who might have fared better, DeFazio pointed to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, the latter of whom was reportedly under consideration as Harris's running mate.

He praised Whitmer for leading a traditionally Republican-leaning state and delivering legislative victories, and Beshear for maintaining strong popularity in deeply conservative Kentucky despite being a Democrat.

In the aftermath of Harris's loss, a familiar narrative re-emerged: that the U.S. is not ready to elect a woman president, a claim often reinforced by Hillary Clinton's 2016 defeat.

DeFazio strongly rejects that idea.

"Whitmer would have kicked Trump's ass," he says. "You just have to nominate the right person."

He added that while Harris and Clinton were qualified candidates, neither was right for the political moment.

"America can elect a woman," DeFazio says.

"You just have to nominate the right one."

YOUNG MEN, MICROTARGETING AND ICE

According to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 56 percent of young men voted for Trump in 2024, compared to 42 percent for Harris — a reversal from 2020, when most young men voted for Biden.

DeFazio attributes that shift to sophisticated microtargeting — the use of personal data such as media habits, geography and interests to tailor political messaging.

"There's so much data out there on everybody," he said. "The Democrats are way behind on it."

But DeFazio says microtargeting isn't being used only to win votes. He claims ICE has also targeted young men for recruitment — a development he finds alarming.

In an eerie prediction of the Jan. 7 killing by ICE of Renee Good, he said: "They're going to recruit 10,000 more



PETER DEFazio
Photo by Todd Cooper

people who won’t hesitate to grab people and throw them on the ground,” he said. “Maybe shoot them.”

DeFazio is deeply troubled by what he sees as the agency’s increasingly aggressive tactics. “The tactics they’re using — China couldn’t get away with that,” DeFazio said. “Guys in masks throwing people to the ground, only to find out they’re citizens or have green cards.”

He compared ICE’s posture to the Blackshirts, the paramilitary force that helped enforce early Italian fascism under Benito Mussolini.

IMMIGRATION AND DEMOCRATIC RISK

Domestically, DeFazio considers immigration one of the Democrats’ greatest policy failures. In 2022, the U.S. recorded approximately 2.2 million illegal border crossings — the highest annual total on record.

“It took them three years to figure out they had created a mess,” he says of the Biden administration.

While in Congress, DeFazio supported an immigration framework that included registration, background checks, back taxes or fines, and work, study or military service requirements, with a pathway to citizenship after a decade. The proposal failed to pass.

DeFazio says Democrats also failed to communicate their accomplishments, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, while allowing immigration concerns to dominate public perception.

Looking ahead to 2028, he expects affordability and wealth concentration to be defining issues. But in the present, his greatest concern is what he describes as a growing Silicon Valley-linked, Christian nationalist ideology within Trump’s orbit.

One name that concerns DeFazio is Curtis Yarvin, the Palo Alto software developer who doesn’t believe in democracy and thinks a tech czar would better rule the U.S. Yarvin has been promoted by Silicon Valley billion-

aire Peter Thiel, who sponsored JD Vance’s Senate race. Vance, who currently seems to be the Republican front-runner for 2028, has become tight with whom DeFazio calls “techno fascists” and those in the Christian nationalist movement.

At a recent “No Kings” rally, DeFazio says he heard widespread concern about trans rights and immigration — but not enough attention to what he fears most. “We are on the verge of losing our representative democracy,” he says.

Unlike Trump’s first term, DeFazio believes there are now fewer internal checks on the president’s impulses. He singled out White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller as particularly troubling, describing him as a Christian nationalist and white supremacist.

Asked about the future of American democracy under Trump’s second term, DeFazio did not mince words.

“I’d say 50/50,” he says. “Or less.”

Fascism Fighter

Native American candidate Melissa Bird hopes to be the next congressional representative for Oregon’s 4th District

BY EVE WESTON

“I’ve always wanted to run for office, and I just decided that now is the time,” Melissa Bird says.

Bird — small business owner, lay preacher, social worker and descendant of the Shivwits Band of Southern Paiutes — is running against incumbent Rep. Val Hoyle for the Democratic nomination in the May primary for Oregon’s 4th Congressional District seat.

Bird says she decided “enough is enough” and chose to run after the Trump administration stripped away her husband’s dream job at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration when it terminated hundreds of employees from the agency in early 2025.

Her top priorities, Bird says, are housing, health care and unjust Immigration and Customs Enforcement practices. While she emphasizes that other topics are high on her priority list, these three are integral to her campaign and her beliefs. “I’m a Native woman and we’ve been doing

this to brown people for over 500 years,” Bird says of ICE unlawfully detaining citizens. “This is what happened to my people, my grandparents, to my great grandparents and to my ancestors. I absolutely cannot in good faith or conscience support the separation and removal of people from their families.”

Bird, who holds a doctorate degree in social work, is a part of Citizens Impeachment, a volunteer group dedicated to advocating for the impeachment and prosecution of President Donald Trump. Bird is one of 62 candidates involved with the organization and pledges that she, along with her colleagues, will introduce impeachment articles every day until Trump is impeached. “I’m deeply disturbed about what’s happening, particularly with everything that’s happening in Minnesota and also what’s happening with Native and Indigenous people,” Bird says.

She says that if she wins, she will support the Rural New Deal health care model put forward by the Rural-Urban Bridge Initiative and the Progressive Democrats of America. It focuses on five principles and 10 pillars to “rebuild local economies across rural America.”

The platform calls for reforming health care by increasing the number of clinics, investing in effective programs for addiction prevention and treatment and even piloting “farmacy” programs that allow health care providers to write prescriptions for the purchase of healthy foods.

Bird says she hopes to increase access to housing by working directly with communities to determine what solution works for each specific scenario. “What’s going

to work in Eugene is not going to work in Corvallis and what’s going to work in Corvallis is not going to work in Roseburg,” says Bird, who lives in Corvallis. “I think this really comes back to asking people in the community what they need instead of telling them what they need.”

Bird says the country needs leaders who are willing to speak out and lift the voices of people who are often ignored and left behind. “I just don’t see that happening in our district,” she says. Bird is running against Hoyle, who’s served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2023. “I am not the only person challenging Val Hoyle in this race,” Bird says. “I think we should be questioning not just representative Hoyle but also everyone who is running for the seat.”

Boris “Bo” Weidenfeld-Needham, longtime Eugene wine merchant and 50501 Eugene leader, announced in July 2025 that he was running as a Democrat against Hoyle, and Hoyle’s 2024 Republican challenger, Monique DeSpain, who Hoyle beat handily, is running again.

So far, Bird’s campaign has received over \$17,000 in contributions. “I want voters to know that I am not taking corporate money. I am not taking AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] money,” Bird says. “Every single dollar that is raised in this campaign is raised by people who support this vision and this mission of electing people to office who care about the people absolutely.”

Hoyle’s campaign has raised \$644,702 so far and Weidenfeld-Needham has raised \$2,260.

Bird says she believes she stands out from other candidates because she’s a Native, working class woman who knows the struggles of the average American. “Voters deserve someone who represents them,” Bird says. “We deserve leaders in office who are going to rise for this occasion and fight like hell against the rise of fascism in this country.”

ACTIVIST ALERT PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

“I do not know of any salvation for society except through eccentrics, misfits, dissenters, people who protest.”

— William O. Douglas,
U.S. Supreme Court justice

Upcoming Protests, Rallies, Marches, Talks and Gatherings

>> “Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk,” documentary and discussion, 4 pm Sunday Jan. 25, People for Justice and Peace in Palestine, First Congregational Church, 1050 East 23rd Avenue.

>> Stop the Amazon Mega-Distribution Center!, 7:30 pm Monday Jan. 26, Eugene City Council meeting, City

Hall north building. Keep the pressure up to stop this behemoth from moving in and damaging the city.

Ongoing events at the Eugene Federal Building, 7th Avenue and Pearl Street.

>> Veterans for Peace, Chapter 159, weekly protest, 1 pm to 2 pm Mondays.

>> Protest ICE: Last Tuesday Mobilization Response, 10 am to 4 pm last Tuesday of each month. More at Linktr.ee/psleugene. Be available for rapid response via Tinyurl.com/Immigrant-DefenseSignal.

>> Singing for Our Lives, noon to 1 pm Tuesdays, the BeLonging Space

and Interfaith Alliance with Migrants.

>> Silent Protest to Support Our Immigrant Neighbors, 1 pm to 2 pm Tuesdays. Signs provided, wear white or black. Indivisible Eugene/Springfield.

>> Showing Up for Racial Justice and 50501 Weekly Protest, noon to 4 pm Wednesdays. Bring readings, songs, signs or other art.

>> Weekly Vigils Against the Genocide in Gaza and Against ICE, 3 pm to 5:30 pm Wednesdays, Planet Versus Pentagon.

>> “Signs of Fascism” Protest, 10 am to noon Thursdays.

Signs provided, wear all black. Indivisible.

Ongoing events

>> Resist! Persist! Repeat! Weekly Protest, 10 am to 11 am Mondays, corners on 29th and Willamette Street and 11 am to noon Mondays, corner of Coburg and Harlow roads.

>> Make protest signs at MECCA, 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday; get help with signmaking 11 am to 1 pm Wednesdays, materials donated by Eugene Message Makers, make up to four signs for \$5-10 donation to MECCA.

>> Stop the Cuts, noon Fridays, Eugene Veterans Clinic, 3355 Chad Drive.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: DAN GIUSTINA, LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAVID LOVEALL AND KELLY RICHARDSON OPPOSE THE COUNTY'S BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH SITE CHOICE; BELOW, FROM LEFT: LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PAT FARR, RYAN CENIGA, LAURIE TRIEGER AND HEATHER BUCH SUPPORT IT.

Photo illustration by McKenzie Young-Roy
Photos courtesy of Lane County, University of Oregon,
Oregon Business and Industry

SUPER-SITING SURPRISE

Lane County's stealth in getting new state law angers neighbors of planned behavioral health center

Behavioral health advocates rejoiced when Lane County and PeaceHealth, 15 months ago, declared they would build a joint 126-bed center on International Way in Springfield's Gateway area.

The facility would sharply expand the metro area's mental-care safety net, with 24-hour-a-day temporary emergency beds and recliners for youth and adults, and long-term secure inpatient beds for people with severe disorders such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

But two prominent local businessmen, real estate investor Dan Giustina and sports-products executive Kelly Richardson, did not cheer. Richardson's 400-employee factory sits next to the proposed site and Giustina owns three industrial/commercial buildings plus vacant land

abutting or near the site. And others were puzzled by the county's and PeaceHealth's site choice.

Why? Because Springfield's zoning code clearly does not allow such a facility on the 18 acres that the county and PeaceHealth picked. The code zones the land "campus-industrial." It's reserved for manufacturing and other similar facilities that create jobs and boost the city's economy, the code says.

And so began Lane County government's unprecedented, tortuous and often secret drive to muscle aside Springfield's zoning restrictions, and clear the way for the urgently needed facility.

At the same time, Giustina and Richardson lobbied the city of Springfield and the county, stressing that the city's campus-industrial zoning prohibited overnight health care beds, a rule that effectively barred the county/PeaceHealth facility. Their opposition to that site peaked three months ago when they filed an unusual lawsuit against the county, PeaceHealth and the state.

A key turning point in the long struggle occurred last June. That's when the county quietly secured a law from the Oregon Legislature — a "super-siting" law — that lets the county override Springfield's "campus-industrial"

zone's restrictions and appeals processes on that 18-acre parcel. The county's lobbyists narrowly crafted the law specifically for that site to sidestep NIMBY opponents.

Without the super-siting law, the county and PeaceHealth would have to persuade the Springfield City Council to rewrite its "campus-industrial" zoning rules, a complex and slow process with no sure outcome. More crucially, if not for super-siting, Giustina and Richardson could contest any rezoning the council passed, tying up the project for years in Oregon's land-use appeals system.

But the businessmen, in their lawsuit, complain that the county never warned them it was quietly working to strip them of those rights. Their long-shot lawsuit aims to nullify the super-siting law.

And so, a dramatic mental-health-care expansion, a cause for celebration, has become mired in a sticky land-use dispute.

The dispute is also about stealth.

Without its new super-siting power, the county might be dead in the water on this vital project.

Yet almost all the maneuvering that gave the county that power took place behind the scenes, with virtually no public awareness or discussion.

The five-member Board of Commissioners never discussed or voted in public session to pursue super-siting legislation. Commissioner Laurie Trieger, a big advocate of the health project, tells *Eugene Weekly* she cannot recall who in early 2025 came up with the idea of getting a super-siting law for the county project. The concept may have emerged in closed-door meetings of county staff and a couple of commissioners — herself and Commissioner Pat Farr — or in discussions between county staff and legislative staff in Salem, she says.

"We have an obligation to do everything we can to accelerate this process to get this facility built. That's why we did this," Trieger says.

As for the county not alerting Giustina and Richardson to its intentions, Trieger responds: "I can't and won't comment on that," because of the pending lawsuit.

Meanwhile, what does the Springfield City Council think about the new law? Councilors won't comment. The council never publicly discussed the issue as the super-siting language was being worked on in the 2025 Legislature — even though the bill would override "campus-industrial" zoning rules the council itself had put in place, and even though the city's lobbyists and lawyers privately haggled for months with the county about super-siting language.

A SPRAWLING FIGHT

What's clear from interviews and public records is this: The county's and PeaceHealth's push for the big behavioral health center on that specific International Way parcel has sparked a complex power struggle.

It's pulled in county commissioners and staff, Springfield city councilors and staff, PeaceHealth officials and Giustina and Richardson.

The two executives argue that the site the county picked should be preserved for industrial development, and that neighbors' local land-use appeal rights should not be trampled. They're uneasy about the planned facility's clientele, saying it might include overnight RV campers.

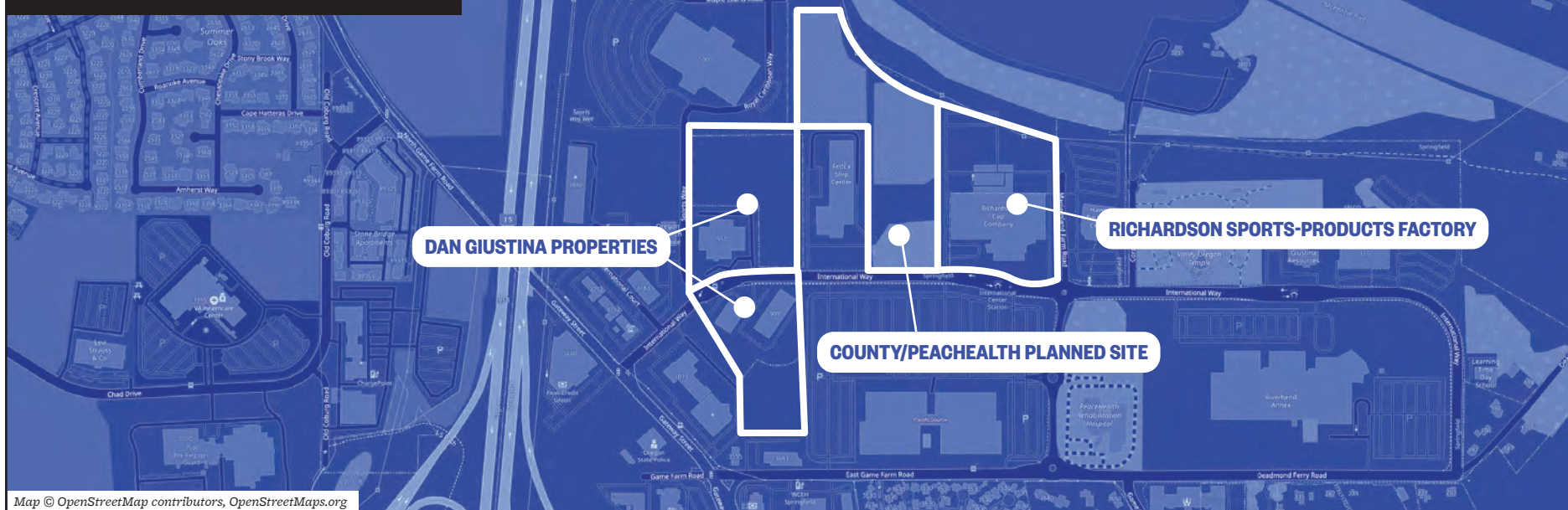
The project has split the county board 4-1, with Commissioner David Loveall, who represents Springfield, the "no" vote. In October 2024, he voted for proceeding with the project at the International Way site. But in July 2025 he switched and voted against the county finalizing purchase of the site. The county "overstepped a little bit" in getting the super-siting law, and has antagonized Springfield councilors and residents, he told county staff and other commissioners. He also complained that the county needs to do more to address the facility's traffic impacts and to prevent camping at the site.

Eugene Weekly asked Loveall for an interview on the topic. In a brief reply email, Loveall says he has "angst... towards the county for what they did to my fair city."

"I will never stand by and witness malicious wrongs against anyone. ... I was elected to stand up for all citizens' rights EQUALLY," he wrote, in an apparent allusion to the county's treatment of Giustina and Richardson.

During a July 2025 commissioner board work session,

UNHAPPY NEIGHBORS



Loveall also attacked PeaceHealth for “bullying their way into the campus-industrial zone unnecessarily,” noting that the hospital giant owns 75 acres of vacant, developable land next to its RiverBend hospital in Springfield. Giustina and Richardson have leveled that same argument.

WELCOME, NEIGHBOR

The planned two-building facility might not be everybody’s notion of an ideal neighbor. The county’s building, a “crisis stabilization center,” would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with 28 beds and 14 recliners. It would draw walk-in patients, drop-offs by police and drop-offs by mobile crisis vans, the county says. Its services would include treatment for addiction and substance abuse.

PeaceHealth’s 96-bed building would be an inpatient psychiatric hospital with strictly controlled access and egress.

The dual facility would be heavily used, serving an estimated 12,500 patients a year, including children and the elderly.

The county vows the center would fit in with its neighbors and be well run. Neighbors include not only the 400-employee Richardson Sports factory, but a FedEx sorting center, and office parks with health insurance companies and other occupants.

Oregon state Sen. Floyd Prozanski, who represents Springfield and part of Eugene, says the super-siting law was needed to avoid objections and delays.

“These types of facilities, there are a lot of people who don’t want it in their backyard,” he tells *Eugene Weekly*.

The facility “needed to be expedited,” he says. Springfield officials last year knew the super-siting law was in the works. “They did not have any objection,” Prozanski says.

The super-siting language “is an example of the county and the state working as partners to achieve an outcome that serves the entire community,” Trieger says.

The super-siting language takes up just three-quarters of a page in a sweeping 68-page health care reform bill that Prozanski helped usher through the Senate. The language of the entire bill, including super-siting, was kept under wraps as it was being worked on up until the closing days of the Legislature in late June. It was then unveiled and rushed through, approved by Democrats in party-line votes. The super-siting section received almost no discussion, recordings of the sessions show.

The bill blindsided and dismayed Giustina and Richardson. Their suit, filed in Lane County Circuit Court, names the county, the city, the state and PeaceHealth. The businessmen allege the super-siting law violates their land-use appeal rights and other rights under other parts of Oregon law. They want a judge to rule that those laws take precedence over the super-siting law. The case is unfolding. The defendants all deny the Giustina/Richardson claims.

Giustina and Richardson declined to speak with *Eugene Weekly*.

With the new law in hand, the county has pressed ahead. Days after the bill was signed into law, the Lane County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1, over Loveall’s heated objections, to buy the site for \$7.8 million from

its longtime farming owners. The county completed its purchase of the old filbert orchard just days after Guistina and Richardson filed suit. The county, earlier this month, notified the city that it will proceed with the project and invoke the super-siting law.

LONG TIME COMING

Lane County has tried for more than a decade to build a center where a wide range of patients — distraught teens, unhoused people who are depressed, adults experiencing a panic attack, people with addictions — could get quick temporary care and counseling, a sort of emergency department for behavioral health. County staff say they evaluated more than 35 local sites for suitability.

The best was county-owned land on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Eugene, across from Autzen Stadium, they said, so they tentatively picked that spot. But game day traffic jams were a negative, they said.

Meanwhile, in 2023, PeaceHealth announced that as part of closing its University District hospital in Eugene, it would build a new 96-bed psychiatric hospital, preferably near its RiverBend hospital, to replace the old 36-bed secure psychiatric unit at University District.

The near-tripling of psychiatric beds would be a godsend for the region, behavioral health advocates said.

PeaceHealth identified the 18-acre filbert site on International Way and approached the county about building a joint facility, records show.

The site was mostly perfect. It was for sale. It was just a couple of miles from the RiverBend emergency depart-

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ment. It was close to major highways. It was big enough for the county and PeaceHealth buildings and parking. And it was inside Springfield’s urban growth boundary, so it could be built on.

The county staff, the majority of county commissioners, and PeaceHealth gushed about the benefits of the site and a joint facility.

The problem of the restrictive zoning was barely mentioned in county documents and meetings in the fall of 2024.

In an October 2024 meeting of county commissioners, the county’s capital projects manager, David Ward, told commissioners the county would “look at rezoning that property... we’re moving to rezone that, with a medical component.”

IN THE LEGISLATURE

In early 2025, the county quietly switched from the idea of asking the Springfield City Council to rezone the site to seeking the super-siting law.

After the Legislature convened in January, there ensued months of back-room wrangling between the county and city of Springfield legal staff and lobbyists over the super-siting language, public records show. Throughout, the county kept its language secret from the city, the city’s lobbyist told the Springfield City Council in a memo last summer. Among the city’s worries about the project: Would it increase traffic jams on city streets and the nearby Interstate 5/Beltline interchange?

The county disclosed its final super-siting language to the city only in the last days of the session in June, the city lobbyist wrote. In the end, though, the county “addressed our most critical concerns,” the lobbyist wrote. The lobbyist wrote that the city — it’s unclear who in the city — decided not to oppose the bill, even though “the city does not support super-siting policies in general.”

Once the bill was signed into law, Giustina and Richardson were left with a daunting option: to try to undo the law itself.

In their lawsuit, they fault the secrecy of the county and of the legislative process, and the scant time anyone — legislators, lobbyists, the general public — had to scrutinize the giant bill.

Giustina and Richardson are prominent names in Eugene-Springfield’s business elite. Giustina heads a family ownership group that owns dozens of major estate holdings throughout Eugene-Springfield and beyond, plus extensive timberlands. Richardson’s factory is touted as a national-level sportswear success story.

FULL SPEED AHEAD?

Is the road ahead clear for the health-care project? That’s hard to know.

The supersiting law left intact several technical local land-use hoops the county must jump through.

A key one is this: the Springfield City Council must

vote on whether to annex the International Way site into the city limits. Until the property is annexed in, the county can’t legally build on it. Will the council oppose or support annexation? Does it even have the legal right to reject the annexation? There must be a public hearing before the vote. What will the public say?

The county earlier this month filed its annexation request, which will come before the council in the next few months. Annexation applications are typically routine: a landowner wants to annex, explains that the development will obey the city’s existing zoning and other rules, and then gets a unanimous thumbs-up from a happy council.

‘These types of facilities, there are a lot of people who don’t want it in their backyard.’

— FLOYD PROZANSKI, OREGON STATE SENATOR

This annexation is anything but routine. In its paperwork, the county invokes the super-siting law to override the great majority of the city’s “campus-industrial” land-use rules and other restrictions. In effect, the county says, the city is obliged to annex the land and let the project proceed. Does the city agree? That’s not yet clear.

The City Council has the power to deny annexation if it finds a project is not consistent with the city’s zoning and other rules, says city spokesperson Elyse Ditzel. Also, the council can set conditions for annexation and “has the discretion to weigh competing or conflicting policies and determine which are paramount to the city,” she tells *Eugene Weekly*.

In its communications to the county, the city continues to complain the county has not sufficiently addressed traffic jams the facility might cause, city records show.

MORE QUESTIONS

Many questions linger.

Loveall, Giustina and Richardson have asked: Why doesn’t PeaceHealth put the project on its own vacant land next to RiverBend? There, PeaceHealth owns a 35-acre

tract of open, multi-family-zoned land that it has listed for sale. It also owns parcels ranging from one to eight acres, totalling 40 acres, that are separated from each other by a web of city streets and access roads.

A PeaceHealth executive told the county Board of Commissioners the joint facility could not be fitted onto any of those pieces. Loveall, Giustina and Richardson don’t buy that.

“The people I represent still have some heartburn with PeaceHealth not being overly transparent with the 75 acres of land they have, of developable property around [RiverBend],” Loveall told commissioners in a meeting last July. PeaceHealth pushed for the International Way filbert orchard site because hospital executives “haven’t figured out yet” what to do with their land, he said.

PeaceHealth anticipates selling the 35-acre residential tract and wants to keep the remaining 40 acres of small parcels “for future services which are required to be located immediately next to the emergency department or operating rooms,” says Alicia Beymer, chief administrative officer at RiverBend. The county stabilization center and PeaceHealth psychiatric hospital “do not require that proximity,” Beymer tells *Eugene Weekly*. PeaceHealth does not want RiverBend to become “landlocked,” she says.

As for Giustina’s and Richardson’s pitch that the filbert orchard should be preserved for industrial development? County leaders and staff don’t buy that.

The filbert orchard has been designated for industrial use for decades, and no buyer has materialized. Some other corporate or industrial uses in the Gateway area have fizzled: The Sony CD disc manufacturing plant shuttered in 2003 and laid off all its workers. The factory was bought by PeaceHealth and turned into a lab and offices. The former Royal Caribbean call center building has sat vacant for six years and is now for sale.

A religious-facilities loophole in Springfield’s campus-industrial zoning rules allowed the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build a colossal temple on International Way, a fifth of a mile from the planned county project.

To rebut Giustina’s and Richardson’s arguments, county staff produced a study that found the 18 acres the county and PeaceHealth want for the health center are a fraction of the available campus-industrial-zoned land in Gateway.

The county project “is the continuation of the shift [away from industrial] rather than the initiation of the shift on International Way,” a county staffer told commissioners.

Residents of Springfield and the rest of Lane County “are suffering because we do not have a complete behavioral health care system,” says Commissioner Trieger. “This facility will benefit everyone. It will become a critical piece of our health care infrastructure.”

Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.



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what's happening

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JAN. 23

Amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, narratives of peace and solutions-oriented work have been harder to find. That's part of what motivated Paul Parker and his fellow members of Eugene's Quaker peace and justice committees to organize **Gaza Today — and What We Are Called to Do in 2026**. It is a presentation and discussion that brings voices with knowledge of what's happening on the ground. The presenters are Jennifer Bing and Zoe Jannuzi, two national leaders with the American Friends Service Committee, who recently returned from public service work in Palestine. The event centers around a discussion of the current situation in Gaza and what actionable steps forward look like in 2026. Bing taught at Ramallah Friends School in Palestine in the late 1980s and has returned regularly as AFSC's national director for Palestine activism, while Jannuzi serves as the organization's activism program coordinator for Palestine and is an experienced policy analyst. Parker describes the situation in Palestine as "the canary in the mine shaft" for global justice, arguing that upholding international law has implications far beyond the Middle East. The presentation is about 30 minutes, followed by discussion and Q&A. Parker emphasizes that the event is open to everyone, regardless of religious denomination. "It's really an important event for all persons who are interested in worldwide systems of justice, and how Palestine fits into that formula," he says. — *Mirandah Davis-Powell*

Gaza Today — And What We Are Called to Do in 2026 is 4 pm to 5:30 pm on Friday, Jan. 23, at Eugene Friends Church, 2274 Onyx Street. Free. For more information, call 541-484-9998, email EugeneFriends3495@gmail.com or visit EugeneFriendsChurch.org.



January 22

THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Welt Button Workshop, noon-3pm, Dreamery Fabric, 245 W. 8th Ave.

Paint & Sip, 2-4pm & 6-8pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Scrappy Hour for Visual Artists, 4:30-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St.

Paint w/ Cats, 5:30-7pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$35

Try Soap Carving, 5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Film

Really Me: The Diary of a Soul in Transition, 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9

Food/Drink

Blues & Chowder Fest ft. Fort George Brewing, 11:30am-10pm today, Fri., Sat., Sun., beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Thursday Tastings: Dry January Edition, 5-7pm today & Jan. 29, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Comics Creator Mixer, 6-7pm, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave. ste. 224.

Suicide Prevention Meditation, 6:30pm today & Thurs. Jan. 29, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Family Support Group, 7-8:30pm today & Thurs. Jan. 29, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm today & Thurs. Jan. 29, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

Poetry Open Mic Night, 7-9pm, Hult Ctr.

Nightlife

Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. \$5

Trivia, 7pm today & Thurs., Jan. 29, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm today & Thurs., Jan. 29, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Private Goat Happy Hour, noon-1pm today, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Tue., Thurs., Jan. 29, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary,

26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. FREE-\$35

Spiritual

Tarot Practice Circle, 7-9pm, Brightheart Alchemy Guides, 995 Lewis Ave. Apt. 4. \$4-9

Theater

The Rocket Men, 7:30pm today, Fri., Sat., Thurs., Jan. 29 & 2pm Sun., Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway. \$25-52

Urinetown the Musical, 7:30pm today Fri., Sat., Thurs., Jan. 29 & 2pm Sun., Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$31

January 23

FRIDAY

Art/Craft

From Black to White: An Exploration of Shades, 10am-4pm, White Lotus Gallery, 767 Willamette.

Projections: Beats & Eats Selector Series, 5-10pm, Headquarters Wine Bar, 325 W. 4th Ave.

Paint & Sip: Butterfly Eye, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45

Benefits

Healthy Moves: Grassroots to the Blues Fundraiser, 6-9pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Company, 907 W. 3rd Ave.

Festival

Oshogatsu Festival 2026, 5:30-7:30pm, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary, 2855 Lincoln St.

Gatherings

Peer Connection Support Group, 4-5:30pm today, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd.

Health

Walk-In Pain Clinic, noon-5pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$25-75

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

School Choice Presentation, 5-5:30pm, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary, 2855 Lincoln St.

Lectures/Classes

Gaza Today: What We are Called to Do in 2026,

4-5:30pm, Eugene Friends Church, 3495 W. 18th Ave.

W. African Djembe Drumming w/ Ibou Sylla, 5:30-7pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$25

An Evening w/ Douglas Tallamy: How Can I Help? Saving Nature w/ Your Yard, 6:30-8:30pm, The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$15

Nightlife

Karaoke Night, 6pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Twisted Karaoke, 8pm-midnight, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Spiritual

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 10-11am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Teen

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Theater

Anastasia, 7:30-10pm today, Sat. & 2-5pm Sun., Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$29-59

January 24

SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Mindful Drawing, 11am-noon, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln.

Zine Into the New Year: Strength, noon-2pm, Facing Giants, 576 Olive St., ste. 300. FREE-\$20

Bobbin Lace & Tatting Course, 1-3:45pm, Willamette Oaks Retirement Living, 455 Alexander Lp.

Community & Connection: Creative Aging, 1-3pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln.

Paper Airplane Contest, 1-3pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Paint & Sip: Colorful Owl, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45

Color & Chill, 5-7pm, BNF Kombucha & Jun Brewery & Tasting Room, 2495 Prairie Rd. ste. A.

Paint & Sip: Cozy Cabin, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45

Benefits

Tattoo Fundraiser for Burrito Brigade, noon-6pm, Moon Maiden Tattoo, 275 W. 8th Ave.

White Bird Fundraiser: Rock Medicine, 7-10pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Civics

AARP: 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection Breakfast, 8-10am, Ford Alumni Ctr., 1720 E. 13th Ave.

Joint Legislative Town Hall, 2-4pm, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave.

Comedy

Comedy in the Cattail Lounge, 7:30pm, Wetland Brew Pub, 922 Garfield St.

Drag

Drag Bingo, 5pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St.

Farmers Markets

Saturday Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Film

National Theatre: The Fifth Step, 4pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

Health

Hack Your Health, 11am-noon, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd.

Kids/Family

Little Friends Art & Creative Play, 10-11:15am, Pudding Art Studio, 911 River Rd. \$10

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Family Storytime, 10:30am & 11:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Fun: Watercolors, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Lectures/Classes

Talk Time: Practice Conversational English, 10am today & 4-5:30pm Wed., Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Guided Walking Tour, 1-2:30pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, University St. & E. 25 Ave.

Intro to Furniture Restoration, 1-4pm, BRING Recycling, 4446 Franklin Blvd. \$45-90

Psychedelic Salon: Discovering Unknown & Familiar Psychedelic Cacti, 5:30-8:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$15-40

Literary Arts

Modern(ist) Fiction, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St.

Markets

Victorian Gift Market: Valentine's Day Edition, 10am-4pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Solidarity Share Fair, noon-4pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

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Music Bingo, 6pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Hwy. 99 S.

Outdoors/Recreation

Original Goat Yoga, 1-2pm today & Sun., No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$25

Spectator Sports

Lane County Longsword Open 2026, 8am, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$10-90

Spiritual

Insight Meditation & Dharma Reflections & Discussion, 9:30-11am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Tarot Readings w/ Cynthia Ray, 1-5pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. \$15-50

January 25

SUNDAY

Art/Craft

Goats & Glass Stained Glass Workshop: Sunshine Edition, 10am-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$125

Intro to Gelli Printing w/ Shannon Richter, 1-4pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$45

Paint & Sip: Ice Skating, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Trinket Box Craft Class, 2-4pm, Overlap Self Care

JAN. 24

Moon Maiden Tattoo has partnered with Burrito Brigade — an organization providing food to hungry individuals across Lane County — for a **tattoo fundraiser** on Jan. 24. Community members will have the opportunity to get a flash tattoo by one of six Moon Maiden artists, each with their own unique flash sheets. “The artists at Moon Maiden Tattoo understand that mutual aid and local organizations are essential for a thriving community,” tattoo artist and event organizer Maya Ahara says. “Tattoo fundraisers give us the opportunity to support causes that we feel are important, while also doing something we love.” She says it was an “easy” choice to partner with Burrito Brigade. “They do incredible work and have implemented so many creative solutions for fighting hunger and reducing food waste in our city.” In addition to collaborating with Burrito Brigade, Moon Maiden has done fundraisers with local organizations, including Black Thistle Street Aid and Lovable Dog Rescue. “We are really happy to be hosting fundraisers on a regular basis, and hope that they continue to pick up steam so that we can make a bigger impact for the local businesses and organizations we partner with,” Ahara says. — *Ysabella Sosa*

Tattoo Fundraiser for Burrito Brigade is noon to 7 pm Saturday, Jan. 24, at Moon Maiden Tattoo, 275 West 8th Avenue. Tattoo prices start at \$50.



Superstore, 136 S. 6th St., Spfd. \$25

Benefits

Pet Adoption Events w/ Lucky Paws, 1-4pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Steam & Whiskers & Kitty Adoption, 1-5pm, Coastal Farm & Ranch, 2200 W. 6th Ave.

Bingo Benefiting Charity, 3-5pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. \$2-5

Yagody Benefit Concert, 7pm, Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd. \$30

Film

National Theatre: The Fifth Step, 1:45pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

Put Your Soul on Your Hand & Walk, 4-6:30pm, First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave.

Gatherings

Eugene Car Club's Cars & Coffee, 10am-1pm, Overpark Parking Garage, 1000 E. 10th Ave.

Slugblaster, noon, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave. ste. 224. \$15

Hope Abbey Open House, 1-4pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 25th & University.

Kids/Family

Family Fun: Building, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Youth Psychological First Aid Training, noon-1:30pm, The Broadway Metro, 888 Willamette.

Literary Arts

Poetry in the Round, 12:30-2pm, Coburg Commons

Bookstore, 91193 N. Willamette, Coburg.

Emerald City Type-In, 1-4pm, Horai Bakery, Café, Market, 345 W. 11th Ave.

Ralph Salisbury at 100: A Tribute Reading, 2-4pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette.

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Markets

Victorian Gift Market: Valentine's Day Edition, 10am-4pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Nightlife

Karaoke w/ DJ Johnben, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

On The Air

Creative Non-Fiction Podcast: Live Taping, 1pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Trauma-Informed Yoga for Veterans, 9:30-10:30am, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd.

Social Dance

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance, 11:15am, River Rd. House Concert, 246 Ivanhoe Ave.

Bachata Fusion Social Dance, 7pm, Xcape Dance Academy, 1416 W. 7th Ave.

Learn Dances Mostly From the Balkan area, 7:15-9:45pm, Vet's Club, 1620 Willamette. Eugene. \$5

Spiritual

Justice & Mercy, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St.

Sunday Morning Soul Connection, 10:45am-noon, EVCSL The Light House, 458 Blair Blvd.

Nondual Teachings from the Great Spiritual Traditions, 11am-12:45pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St.

Faith Forward: A Gathering for Single Moms, 5-7pm, Facing Giants, 576 Olive St., ste. 300.

January 26

MONDAY

Civics

Human Services Commission, noon-1pm, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

City Council Wk. Session, 5:30pm, City Hall, 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit Eugene-or.gov for link.

City Council Mtg., 7pm, City Hall, 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit Eugene-or.gov for link.

Film

National Theatre: The Fifth Step, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Peer Connection Support Group, 6-7:30pm, Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy., Veneta.

Cascade Brewers Society Monthly Mtg., 7-9pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$30

Nightlife

Eugene Deadhead Trivia, 6pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.



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WOW
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FRIDAY, JAN. 23

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SATURDAY, JAN. 24

HELL'S BELLES

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

MADCADDIES
WINTER WEST TOUR

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

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www.thevlt.com for tickets!

Cash Bingo Mondays, 6:30pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd. \$5-19

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Annex Eugene, 1236 Kincaid St. \$3

Trivia Mondays w/ Geo, 6:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Taiji & Mobility Classes, 9-10am, Denfinity Dance Studio, 1325 Jefferson St. \$15-20

Beginner's Rock Climbing, 6-8pm, Crux Rock Climbing Gym, 401 W. 3rd Ave. \$17

Social Dance

West Coast Swing Dancing, 7-10:30pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$7

January 27
TUESDAY

Art/Craft

Upcycled CD Stained Glass Suncatcher Workshop, 4-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$18

Make a Treasure Chest Mimic, 5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., ste. C. \$8

Civics

Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Secretary of State Discusses Voting Rights, 11:30am-1pm, The Shedd, 285 E. Broadway. \$5

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Tween Crafting: String Art, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Pruning: Fruit Trees & Grapes, 10-11:30am, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd.

Compassionate Listening Workshop, 5-7pm, Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church, 532 C St., Spfd. \$100-150

Science on Tap, 5-7pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Tech Help, 6pm today & 11am Wed., Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Know Before You Go: Free Avalanche Awareness Presentation, 7-8:30pm, UO Oregon Outdoor Program Barn, 1225 E. 18th Ave.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Markets

Art Exhibit & Gifts, 11am-4pm, Studio 7 Art Gallery, 87230 Central Rd.

Nightlife

Chess Night, 6-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Tacos & Trivia on a Tuesday, 6:30-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Bingo & Tacos, 7-9pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, Road House Billiards & Brew, 2105 W. 7th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Restorative Yoga, 10-11am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$15

January 28
WEDNESDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Winter Mushroom, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., ste. C. \$8

Benefits

Willamette Valley Crisis Care, 5pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th St.

Civics

City Council Wk. Session, 5:30pm, City Hall, 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit Eugene-or.gov for link.

Comedy

Another Round: Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave.

Gatherings

Eugene Go Club, 5:30-9pm, The Wheel Apizza Pub, 390 Lincoln St.

Peer Connection Support Group, 6:30-8pm, Online, visit Nami.org for link.

Health

Breathing for Health & Stress & Anxiety Relief, 1:30-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$5-15

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Craft 3D Animal Portraits, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Technology & Internet Help, 12:30-1:30pm, River Rd. Annex, 1055 River Rd.

Literary Arts

Jewish American Writers, 6-8:30pm, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-150

Poetry Book Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Hodgepodge Books & Taps, 158 E. 14th Ave.

Nightlife

Trivia, 6-8pm, The Garden on Friendly, 2760 Friendly St.

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5

Game Night w/ Ayla, 6:30-10pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, Centennial Steak House & Sports Bar, 1300 Mohawk Blvd., Spfd.

Trivia w/ Brett, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Balance for Life: 55+ Mindful Fitness, 10-11am, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. \$20-60

Social Dance

Argentine Tango Dancing, 7-10pm, Veterans' Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette. \$7-10

Teens

Animanga Watch Party, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Make Monster Mittens, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

January 29
THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip, 2-4pm & 6-8pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Scrappy Hour for Glass Artists, 4:30-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St.

Benefits

Parenting is No Joke: A Comedy Benefit Night for WellMama, 6-7:30pm, 255 Madison St. FREE-\$30

Civics

Spfd. State of the City, 5:30pm, Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd.

Comedy

Bad Teachers w/ Cory Michaels, 7pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.

Drag

The Muse Collective Cabaret: High Roller Revue, 9pm, The Sparrow & Serpent Pub, 211 Washington St. \$10

Literary Arts

Guidance from the Universe: Hopeful Messages for Everyday Challenges, 7pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette.

Nightlife

Cat Bingo, 5:30-7pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$25

Add your event to Eugene Weekly's What's Happening Calendar for free at EugeneWeekly.com. Email Cal@EugeneWeekly.com with questions or call 541-484-0519.

Music Listings

THURSDAY 1/22

BEERGARDEN Anya Lecuyer & Friends (r&b) — 7pm.

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

PLAY Records w/ DJ DV8 — 6pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Open Mic: Acoustic Music — 5:30pm.

THE AXE & FIDDLE Spencer Kilpatrick & The Sand Gators (psychedelic r&b) — 7:30pm. \$10

THE JAZZ STATION The Benny Benack III Quartet — 6pm & 8pm. \$40

THE SHEDD OFAM Winter 2026: *I Love Paris The French Connection* — 1:30pm & 7:30pm, today, Fri. Sat., Sun. \$12.50-45

FRIDAY 1/23

255 MADISON Mild Kingdom (classic rock) — 7pm.

ARABLE BREWING COMPANY Bootleg Rose (Americana) — 6pm.

BLAIRALLY Church of 80s: Dance Party Every Friday — 9pm. \$4

BUGSY'S BAR & GRILL East-Side AllStars (classic rock) — 8pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Harlan Rivers Duo (Americana) — 7pm.

EUGENE SCIENCE CTR. Friday Laser Shows — 5pm. FREE-\$8

GRATITUDE BREWING Mis-soula Flood (bluegrass) — 7:30pm.

MAX'S TAVERN Lonesome Randall w/ Johnny the Hawk (blues) — 7pm.

PUBLICHOUSE Corwin Bolt (Americana) — 7pm.

THE AXE & FIDDLE Emerald City Roadkill (honky-tonk) — 7:30pm. \$5

THE EMBERS Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 8pm.

THE HYBRID Tony Furtado Quartet ft. Luke Price & Todd Sickafoose & Simon Chrisman (Americana) — 8pm. \$30-33

VIKING BREWING WEST Peter Wilde (John Prine covers) — 6pm.

WOW HALL Club XCX — 8pm. FREE-\$15

SATURDAY 1/24

BEERGARDEN Fret Logic (blues) — 7:30pm.

BLAIRALLY House of Swerve (DJ Undermind) — 9pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Forest Mountain Lion (folk rock) — 7pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Greg Nestler Trio (blues) — 7:30pm.

HAPPY HOURS Mars Grass & Artemis Crave (classic rock) — 8-10pm.

PLAY River & Jackson (folk) — 7pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Let it Roll (classic rock) — 6pm.

THE AXE & FIDDLE *Crunk Witch Presents: HXNCLB* (electropop) — 7:30pm.

THE EMBERS Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 8pm.

VIKING BREWING WEST Stuff (roots) — 6pm.

WHITESIDE THEATRE Adam Larson w/ The Junebugs (folk) — 8pm. \$10-15

JAN. 25

“Our music says: Ukraine is not only resisting — it is living, remembering and creating its future from deep roots,” says Zoriana Dybovska, founder of **YAGÓDY**. The group of four Ukrainian women perform at Unity of the Valley Sunday, Jan. 25. Their artistic performance combines theater, folk tradition and voice in a time where Ukrainian people continue to remind the world: “When politics speaks through statements, culture speaks through feeling. Our music reaches places where headlines cannot, reminding the world that Ukraine is not only a battlefield, but a living, breathing culture,” Dybovska says. The women use their musical and acting skills to create shows that people feel in their hearts and their bodies. They evoke connection while preserving and continuing to grow centuries’ worth of Ukrainian tradition. “In times of turmoil, groups like YAGÓDY act as cultural ambassadors of Ukraine,” Dybovska says. YAGÓDY was created in 2016, two years after Dybovska was forced to leave Donetsk, Ukraine, following a Russian military invasion. The group’s lineup came together organically at different times. Audiences can expect to feel the energy of the music and might even walk away with more curiosity about Ukrainian culture. — *Ruby Duncan*

YAGÓDY performs 7:30 pm Sunday, Jan. 25, at Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Road. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tickets are available at TurningTidesMusic.org.



WOW HALL Hell's Belles (AC/DC tribute) — 8pm. \$30-35

SUNDAY 1/25

255 MADISON Traditional Irish Music Session — 4pm.

ART HOUSE KLCC Presents: *The Volcano Listening Project* (classical) — 7:30pm. \$23-25

ART HOUSE Sparkbird (indie) — 1pm. \$20

BEALL CONCERT HALL Reflections w/ Simone Dinnerstein (classical) — 3pm. \$8-53

BEERGARDEN Lloyd L. Tolbert Band (blues) — 4pm.

DOWNTOWN EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY Record Listening: Tina Turner — 1:30pm.

EVEN STEVEN'S The East-Side Sunday Night Jam (classic rock) — 5pm.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Soaring Beyond Language: Women's Choral Society Winter Concert — 3pm. \$8-23

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Mic — 4pm.

PUBLICHOUSE Open Mic w/ Amblin — 5:30pm.

MONDAY 1/26

BEERGARDEN Bluegrass Jam & Game Night — 6:30pm.

HAPPY HOURS Open Mic — 8pm.

HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic — 6:30pm.

TUESDAY 1/27

HAPPY HOURS Tuesday Nights w/ Rich Fisher (singer songwriter) — 6:30pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Roosters Blues Jam — 6:30pm. \$9

OREGON WINE LAB One Mic Open Mic — 5:30pm.

THE AXE & FIDDLE The Folk Element Trio — 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 1/28

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Bluegrass Jam Session — 6pm.

LOCAL LOSERS LOUNGE Stone Hart (alt rock) — 6pm.

MULLIGAN'S PUB Open Mic — 8:30pm.

THE SHEDD Keola Beamer & Henry Kapono (Hawaiian) — 7:30pm. \$23.25-39

WOW HALL Mad Caddies (ska) — 8pm. \$22.50-27.50

THURSDAY 1/29

BEERGARDEN Sugar Push — 7pm.

BLAIRALLY Baby Grendel & Baby Smooth (indie rock) — 9pm. \$8

JOHN HENRY'S The Flicks & Callowruse & Draggernaut (punk) — 8pm. \$10

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

PLAY Records w/ DJ Foodstamp — 6pm.

THE SHEDD Beyond the Buzz: Finding the Signal in a Noisy World (jazz) — 5:30pm.

ARTS

ROCKETING AT OCT



THE CAST OF THE ROCKET MEN
WITH PLAYWRIGHT
CRYSTAL SKILLMAN (CENTER).

Photo by Bob Williams Photography

The Rocket Men, a drama with roles written for female actors, is part of a rolling premiere

BY DOROTHY VELASCO

The *Rocket Men*, a new play now running at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, is truly a work in progress.

Crystal Skillman's drama about the invention of rockets designated for space travel after World War II was commissioned by two Alabama universities and performed at the Alabama Center for the Arts. It had additional development at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. Then it was selected for a prestigious National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere by four companies, including OCT as the third production.

All of these developmental stages prove how difficult it is to create an original play that will entertain, inform and

even enlighten a wide audience. So yes, *The Rocket Men* is a work in progress that will continue to evolve. With luck, the long, slow first act will be shortened.

The subject is intriguing. After the war ended, the famous Nazi aerospace engineer Wernher von Braun and approximately 1,600 other German scientists and engineers were invited to settle in the U.S. and work for the government. Many of them eventually gained U.S. citizenship.

Von Braun and his small team of outstanding scientists were headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama. According to the play, they were pleased with the lifestyle of the South. Skillman has said that the events depicted in the play are true, but the dialogue is invented.

The action takes place in the team's office building, with an inner office on a higher level for von Braun. Projections on a large screen show photos and newsreels that take us through time, but it would be helpful to show more dates. The set and projections are by Andrew Hungerford.

Now, to give you something to ponder, the characters are males, but they're played by women wearing men's suits. Why? I'm not supposed to tell you. You'll learn more at the end of the play.

What I can say at this point is that the characters don't seem very manly. These are experienced performers, but some seem to be caricatures and others are like working women worrying about neglecting their children.

The OCT production is directed by Inga Wilson, with Erica Towe as assistant director/dramaturg. If ever a play needed a dramaturg, it's this one. Probably von Braun is the only character whose name most of us will recognize among the seven characters.

Katie Worley Beck as von Braun somehow makes herself look like him with her proud carriage and clear sense of superiority. Kathleen Borrelli plays Heinz-Hermann Koelle, a former pilot who was never a Nazi, with warmth and intelligence. Melanie Moser gives researcher-engineer William Mrazek a sense of humor. Ruth Adele Mandsager is

delightfully grumpy as Arthur Rudolph, developer of the rocket for the first Apollo flight. Hillary Ferguson, as engineer Helmut Hoelzer, laughs frequently. Zayne Clayton and Jessica Jae Unker are fine in smaller roles.

Lighting design is by Michael Peterson, costumes by Lilli Turner, hair and makeup by Laura Tuffi, sound by Darian Soderquist/Chad Kushuba and properties by Laura Leader.

The reason Skillman chose to have women play all the roles is tied to a supposedly surprise ending revealing new information. It really isn't a surprise. The information has been known and disseminated for decades. Nevertheless, the play tackles difficult themes. What is forgivable? What is not? When are you allowed to turn a blind eye to evil deeds, or participate in such deeds? These are questions that could easily keep you awake at night.

The Rocket Men is playing at Oregon Contemporary Theatre through Feb. 1, including Sunday matinees at 2 pm on Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Call 541-465-1506, or visit OCTheatre.org for tickets and information.

GARDENING



GREAT GOLDEN SAND
DIGGER WASP ON GOLDENROD.

Photo by Kim Kelly

The Garden Palette

NATIVE NEEDS

Your backyard can be a certified haven for native species

BY BARBARA BRYSON, CYNTHIA LAFFERTY AND KIM KELLY

This month, we have two contributors to the Garden Palette — our native plant expert, Cynthia Lafferty from Doak Creek Natives and Barbara Bryson, manager of Habitat Haven in Eugene. — Kim Kelly

Winter greetings, fellow plant lovers. As our world lies mostly in dormancy, I have pondered over the native plant gardens around the nursery in the past year. I have noticed a general decline in native bees, bumble bees, butterflies, moths and insects in general.

Our entire world is run on the littlest creatures: insects, butterflies, moths and bees that are in alarmingly low numbers. According to the research done by noted ento-

mologist and author Doug Tallamay, it is recommended that we plant natives and focus on keystone native plants to your area. Keystone plants are those that evolved in a region to provide the highest amount of food source for insects, caterpillars, butterflies, moths and bees.

In the upper canopy of trees, our native oaks provide the highest amount of habit, supporting more than 500 species — while cherries and willows are also very high in supporting valuable habitat. In the shrub layer of our canopy, some of the higher sources of habitat are the Oregon grape family (Mahonia), the Ceanothus family, Arctostaphylos family (manzanita/ kinnickinnick) and Oceanspray (Holodiscus).

In the lower canopy, the flowers supporting the most moths, butterflies, and pollinators are *Helenium*, checker-

mallows (*Sidalcea*), yarrow (*Achillea*), *Erigeron*, *Wyethia*, Western coneflower (*Rudbeckia*), with goldenrod (*Solidago*) and asters (*Symphotrichum*) as being two of the highest.

The National Wildlife Federation has a comprehensive list for each region of keystone plants if you enter your zip code on their site: NativePlantFinder.nwf.org.

Here are some other important things to help with the decline of pollinators in the insect world.

1) Remove invasive plants. They destroy natural habitats. If you have time, volunteer at your local park or neighborhood association to help maintain and clear these areas.

2) Find alternatives to herbicides and pesticides and encourage neighbors to adopt spray-free zones. (*Note from Kim Kelly: For years, I have used vinegar to kill weeds. Or pull them.*)

3) Help reduce light pollution. The bright outdoor night lights kill thousands of moths. Replace your outdoor lights with yellow LED lights. For every butterfly, there are approximately 14 kinds of moths. They are the workhorses of the Lepidoptera family, producing many caterpillars that are the primary food source for 90 percent of our songbird fledglings.

The Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting Tallamay Jan. 23 at Wildish Theater

in Springfield. Tallamay is the author of many books, including: *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope*, *The Nature of Oaks*, and his latest book, *How Can I Help?* All of Tallamay's books offer inspiring and hopeful ideas and information on how to get started in your own yard.

If you would like to do more to help pollinators, check out the Habitat Haven backyard certification program run by Barbara Bryson.

Bryson reports that a key consideration of the certification program is the natural food web that evolved over millions of years. Songbirds require native insects to feed their nestlings and those insects eat native plants. Many native bees similarly require (or prefer) native wildflowers.

An estimated 3 billion birds have disappeared from North America in the past 50 years and pollinators are down about 40 percent worldwide. The major culprits are loss of habitat and pesticide use. Replacing (or not planting) lawns and choosing native plants for landscaping is an excellent first step toward reversing this decline.

As Tallamay says, "If we replaced half of American lawns with native plants, we would create the equivalent of a 20 million acre national park."

The compounding negative impacts to our natural world can feel overwhelming. But a growing number of

people in our community are experiencing the joy and satisfaction of helping birds, other wildlife and pollinators right in their own yards. The Habitat Haven program, under the auspices of Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance and supported by a grant from Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, began just 20 months ago and has already enrolled more than 200 households.

Habitat Haven is run mostly by knowledgeable volunteers, who make a site visit with the homeowner, focusing on creating a healthy habitat. A personalized plan follows, and a yard sign is provided to proudly display the intention to help heal nature at home. There is a suggested fee of \$35 to \$50 for the consult and plan.

Restoring habitat in residential yards makes a difference, and Habitat Haven participants see the results firsthand. Many say they are seeing new bee, bird and butterfly species. The site visits and reports are overwhelmingly appreciated. Comments like: "This was the best thing ever! I'm so excited to get started" are typical.

To learn more or to join the Habitat Haven community and to see future events, go to CCBirdAlliance.org/habitat-haven. Cynthia Lafferty owns and runs Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery in Eugene DoakCreekNursery.com. Kim Kelly edits the Garden Palette. Send questions to Gardening@EugeneWeekly.com.

SAVAGE Love

BY DAN SAVAGE

The Parent Trap

I'm a gay man in my 50s, comfortable in my skin, but I suffered severe bullying throughout school, which was often abetted by teachers. A recent class reunion prompted me to write a tell-all letter to the current school director regarding that trauma. His gracious response was incredibly healing.

My family has accepted me since I came out in my 20s, but they don't know the full extent of my ordeal. While I shared the letter with my supportive brother, I've hesitated to show it to my parents, who are in their 70s. They claim ignorance ("We didn't know you were suffering!") "You never told us you were gay!"), yet they acknowledged long ago that I was "different" from toddlerhood, and they often criticized my "un-boyish" behavior when I was a child.

To give you one concrete example: Some older kids called me a gay slur when I was seven. I asked my mother what it meant. I can still vividly picture her shock and horror. So they knew I was gay but never initiated a conversation with me about it, and I was too ashamed to speak up back then. Since writing to the school, I feel an urge to finally have a "warts and all" talk with my parents to understand their perspective. Should I open Pandora's box with my elderly parents now, or leave things be for the sake of family peace? What is the best approach to having this conversation? Thank you in advance for your perspective.
— Pandora's Box Opener

I have three siblings, PBO, two older brothers and a younger sister. When we became teenagers, our parents started to give us experiences for our birthdays instead of toys. When my brother turned 13, he asked for tickets to a Bears game at Soldiers Field; when my other brother turned 13, he asked for tickets to a Cubs

game at Wrigley Field.

When I turned 13, I asked for tickets to the national tour of *A Chorus Line* at the Schubert Theater.

My parents aren't much older than yours, PBO, and I was about seven years old — just like you — when other kids started calling me a faggot. When I was 10, my homeroom teacher called me a faggot in front of the entire class because I said "baking" when we went around the room and shared our hobbies. One of my uncles called me a sissy at family gatherings. But my parents were surprised when I came out — despite those *Chorus Line* tickets, despite all those faggots and sissies, and despite the obvious ways I wasn't like other boys.

My parents were kind and decent people. It sounds like yours were too. My parents didn't bully me, but they didn't help me. I don't think they could. Because my parents, like other kind and decent people at the time, believed the worst thing you could possibly think about a person was that they were a homosexual. My parents didn't think — they didn't let themselves think — that Liberace was gay. They certainly couldn't let themselves think one of their own children was gay.

Like your parents, my parents criticized my un-boyish behaviors. They thought they were helping. All they knew about homosexuality — besides that was a sin — was that it was something a child might drift toward and that a boy who seemed to be drifting in that direction — a boy who was soft — just needed a gentle little shove in the right direction. They pushed me to play sports, which I hated, and they made their views on homosexuality clear to me. They believed these were loving things to do. But each one of those shoves, however gentle, opened a wound that left a scar.

I was angry when I came out. I had been miserable for a long time, and I

thought the reason seemed obvious. Years later, they would both say they always knew, deep down. But even if they had allowed themselves to name it at the time — even if they could've said it out loud to each other when I was seven — what could they have done? Every time I got called a faggot by another kid or a teacher or a relative, I denied it and retreated more deeply into the closet. If my parents had come to me when I was 13 and in so much pain and asked me if I was gay — if they had attempted to initiate a conversation about it — all I would've heard was, "But you are a faggot, Danny, aren't you?" And I would've denied it to them and retreated even further into the closet. It probably would've taken me longer to come out to myself, much less to them, if they had asked me if I was gay before I was ready to tell them myself.

After my husband and I founded the It Gets Better Project, we returned to the high school where he had been bullied. He'd been beaten up, shoved through plate glass windows, and had his face ground into the ice and rock salt in the parking lot. When his parents complained to the school, the principal blamed Terry. It was his fault for acting that way. It meant so much to Terry when the school's principal apologized to him on behalf of the school decades later. So, I understand why that apology meant so much to you and why you want one from your parents.

I was angry when I came out to mine, PBO, and we had some "warts and all" conversations about how alone I felt as a child. And I could sense the shame they felt before I came out. That was part

of it, too. Their fear of being judged for raising a gay kid prevented them from helping me. But they didn't know what they couldn't know. They were doing their best in a world before *Will & Grace* and *Ellen* and PFLAG and the It Gets Better Project. Unlike today's parents, our parents couldn't get online and read about homosexuality and figure out how to help us. My parents felt awful about the way they failed me as a kid, as I'm sure your parents do. But what I saw in time was that they were set up to fail me. They weren't intentionally, maliciously awful to me, they were just — in this regard — in no position to help.

Still, if there's something you need to say to your parents, you should say it. If it's an apology you want them, you should ask for it. But I would encourage you to go into that conversation ready to do what it took me years to do: forgive them. I was an angry teenager when I came out to my parents, PBO, but you're a grown man. You don't have to be the adult in the room, but you need to be an adult in that room.

My mom and dad got me those tickets to *A Chorus Line*. They got three tickets, actually, even though they were expensive, and my parents didn't have a lot of money. They both came with me to the show. It took me too long to see that I wasn't as alone as I thought I was as a closeted and miserable gay kid. My parents were there with me. I hope you feel the same way about your own.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns and more at Savage.Love



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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES

“Best of Five”— a quintet of quintets.

Across

1. Awaiting a pitch

6. “San ____ High School football rules!” (“Bill & Ted” quote)

11. 2002 Olympics host, briefly

14. Scurrying pest

15. Fred’s neckwear on “Scooby-Doo”

16. Actor Penn

17. Espagnole (one of five)

19. “This ____ travesty!”

20. “____ alone in thinking this?”

21. Capital of Qatar

22. Many “Frozen”-inspired Halloween costumes

24. Period following sunset

26. Queens (one of five)

29. Middle part of a Shakespeare play

31. Author of the “Goosebumps” series

32. MacGowan of the Pogues

33. Drive an 18-wheeler, say

35. Little bit

36. Michigan (one of five)

40. Pirate’s interjection

43. Invisible rope puller, maybe

44. Hall & ____ (“Maneater” duo)

48. Deemed appropriate

51. “Spill the tea!”

52. Styx (one of five)

55. Equal

56. Purplish color

57. They’re thrown in some bars

59. Coffee, in diner slang

60. Former “All Things Considered” host Shapiro

61. Yellow (one of five)

65. Former Giants pitcher Robb with a palindromic name

66. Home of the Lightning

and the Tornadoses

67. “Biography” network

68. 34th U.S. pres.

69. Word after French or Texas

70. “____, what have I done?” (“Once in a Lifetime” lyric)

Down

1. Fleets of warships

2. Excessive

3. Cuban ousted by Castro

4. “Alas,” in Germany

5. Detroit nickname

6. Conspicuously chic

7. “I, Robot” author Asimov

8. Avengers franchise, for short

9. Dem rep. sworn into Congress at age 29

10. Controls the wheel

11. Downhill wear

12. Garfield’s favorite food

13. Didn’t match

18. Pasta ____ (boxed dinner brand)

23. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt

25. Charles, currently

27. Weird “Dr. Steve” in a 2010s Adult Swim show

28. Pueblo cooking vessel

30. -, comparatively

33. Dominican Republic neighbor

34. Banking machine

37. Abu Dhabi ruler

38. American photographer/actress Stark, once linked to former Prince Andrew

39. “Good ____” (Alton Brown series)

40. Oregon city known for its Shakespeare festival

41. Showed on TV again

42. Hockey rink divider

45. Joining forces

46. Major Spanish daily

47. Hit with a heavy hammer

49. Museum-funding org.

50. Zelda’s husband

51. Three, to Mozart

53. Repeated musical phrases

54. Indianan in India, perhaps

58. Grifter’s game

62. Mekong Valley language

63. 1950s Peruvian singer Sumac

64. Beam of light

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Help Wanted

The Highway 58 Herald, an online nonprofit news and information platform, is looking to hire an advertising sales associate. The position is commission-based as an independent contractor. Contact gcluster@highway58herald.org

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Announcements

Attention Crafters! Spring Fair March 27-29. We're back! Our 49th year, booths available for quality crafts. For info send SASE to Spring Fair 2026, POB 22, Dillard, OR 97432 or innerpacerfamily@gmail.com

Unity School has current open-enrollment for the k-4th grade afterschool program. We do morning care/ drop off, and afternoon pickup for Holt, Gilham, Buena Vista, Guy Lee, and Centennial. Call today for a tour, 541-484-0107.

Estate Sales

MOVING SALE Estate and art studio. Feb 23rd & 24th. 1350 E. 25th. 9:30am-5:00pm. No early sales.

Groups

ICE has always been racist and violent. Now it's murderous. You care. Don't stand alone. Join with others who also care. We've got a racial-justice reading group, mostly White people, learning together, supporting each other, and encouraging each other in the work. Join us! Contact Michael at emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY MARILYN M. RICE, Plaintiff, v. CHAD ALLEN PAGE and STASHA MAE WALLIN, Defendant. Case No. 25CV5092 SUMMONS. To: Chad Allen Page and Stasha Mae Wallin IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled case within 30 days from the date of service of this Summons upon you; and if you fail to appear and defend, for want thereof, the Plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded therein. The object of the Complaint and the demand for relief are: Defendants purchased real property from Plaintiff under a land sale contract. Defendants failed to make payment obligations when due to Plaintiff and are in default. Defendants owe Plaintiff the principal sum of \$118,419.70 together with interest at 3.5% per annum from September 5, 2025 until paid. Defendants also owe \$2,487.23 in Lane County Real Property Tax. Plaintiff is also

entitled to payment of costs. All sums due are to be paid to the clerk of the court within 60 days of judgment or at such time to be fixed by the court. If the sums are timely paid, Defendants are entitled to a deed to the property. If they are not paid, Defendants' interest is to be foreclosed and Plaintiff put in possession of the property. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal document called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff. If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling (503) 684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. LUVAS COBB. /s/ Andrew M.J. Pinchin, OSB # 134548, apinchin@luvascobb.com Of Attorneys for Plaintiff, Trial Attorney. First Publication Date: January 8th, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOME Koffler Investment LLC, an Oregon limited liability company will sell the below-described manufactured home, floating home or recreational vehicle by private sealed bid for the highest offered received. The manufactured home, floating home or recreational vehicle has been abandoned. The manufactured home, floating home or recreational vehicle, tenant and owner are described below. Bids for cash payment will be accepted until 9:00 am, January 30, 2026. Interested parties may contact landlord/manager Koffler Investment LLC, an Oregon limited liability company c/o Bruce Koffler, by mail c/o Gardner Beckley Meadows, 975 Oak Street, Suite 625, Eugene, OR 97401, by phone at 541-517-1852, or by email at tracy@kofflerboats.com for the following manufactured home described as: Manufacturer: CHAMPION HOMEBUILDER CO; Year: 1989; Model: Unknown; Serial No.: 1690927110AB; Home ID No.: 258275; located at 89809 Greenhill Road, Eugene, Oregon 97402; owner: Lynda Harris, Kevin Harris, Stephen L. Harris.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF JOEL ALLEN MYERS LANE COUNTY COURT CASE No. 26PB00351 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cathy Colley has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence attached, to the personal representative, Cathy Colley, 3086 Stapp Drive, Eugene OR 97408. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address state above for presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and published: January 22nd, 2026. Attorney for Personal Representative: Molly P Goulet, 1245 Pearl St. Ste. 1, Eugene OR 97401

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR Lane County - PROBATE DEPARTMENT CASE NO. 25PB11187. In the matter of the Estate of Rebel Kelly Justesen, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Robin Hibdon has been appointed Administrator of the Estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned

Administrator c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Administrator, or attorney for the Administrator, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/30/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by SHERWOOD LIKE A TOW 83570 HWY 101 FLORENCE, OR 2023 GMC CAN PK VIN = 1GTP6DEK2P1128324 Amount due on lien \$1215.00 Reputed owner(s) > AMANDA CHRISTINE AGUILAR PEAK CREDIT UNION

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/3/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2019 AUDI ETR 4D VIN = WA1VABGE7KB01143 Amount due on lien \$1550.00 Reputed owner(s) > PAMELA LOUISE FRYE PACIFIC CASCADE FED CREDIT UNION

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/29/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by OILY OWL, LLC 36351 SHORE VIEW DR DORENA, OR 2014 FRHT CSC VIN = 3AKJGEDVXSF7854 Amount due on lien \$21057.05 Reputed owner(s) ELLEN KEEN WEST ONE FINANCE LLC

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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FREE WILL Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

WEEK OF JAN. 22

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Master astrologer Steven Forrest understands you Aries people well. He says that the riskiest strategy you can pursue is to constantly seek safety. It's crucial for you to always be on the lookout for adventure. One of your chief assignments is to cultivate courage — especially the kind of brave boldness that arises as you explore unknown territory. To rouse the magic that really matters, you must face your fears regularly. The coming months will be an ideal time for you to dive in and celebrate this approach to life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are an ambassador from the material world to the realm of spirit — and vice versa. One of your prime assignments is the opposite of what the transcendence-obsessed gurus preach. You're here to prove that the flesh is holy, pleasure is a form of prayer, and the senses are portals to the divine. When you revel in earthy delights, when you luxuriate in rich textures and tastes and scents, you're not being "attached" or "unspiritual." You're enacting a radical sacred stance. Being exuberantly immersed in the material world isn't a mistake to overcome but a blessing to savor. May you redouble your subversive work of treating your body as a cathedral and sensual enjoyments as sacraments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Everything that's meant for you is trying to find its way to you. Here's the problem: It can't deliver the goods if you're in constant motion. The boons trying to reach you are circling, waiting for a stable landing spot. If you keep up the restless roaming, life might have to slow you down, even stop you, so you'll be still enough to embody receptivity. Don't wait for that. Pause now. Set aside whatever's feeding your restlessness and tune into the quiet signal of your own center. The moment you do, bounties will start arriving.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Artist Louise Bourgeois said, "I am what I do with my hands." I will adapt this declaration for your use, Cancerian: You are what you do with your feelings. You are the structures, sanctuaries and nourishment you create from the raw material of your sensitivity. It's one of your superpowers! I understand that some people mistake emotional depth for passive vulnerability. They assume that feeling everything means doing nothing. But you prove that bias wrong. You are potentially a master builder. You can convert the flood waters of emotion into resources that hold, protect and feed. I hope you will do this lavishly in the coming weeks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Admiring writers often say that the Balinese people have no traditional word for "art." Making things beautiful is woven into everyday life, as if everything should be done as beautifully as possible. I aspire to carry out this approach myself: infusing ordinary actions with the same care I'd bring to

writing a story or song. Washing dishes, answering emails and walking to the store: All are eligible for beauty treatment. I highly recommend this practice to you in the coming weeks, Leo. It's true that you're renowned for your dramatic gestures, but I believe you also have an underutilized talent for teasing out glory from mundane situations. Please do that a lot in the coming weeks. For starters, make your grocery list a poem.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Some American Indigenous cultures have "potlatch" ceremonies. These are elaborate gift-giving rituals where hosts gain prestige by generously and freely bestowing their riches on others. Circulating wealth, instead of hoarding it, is honored and celebrated. Is that economically irrational? Only if you believe that the point of resources is individual accumulation rather than community vitality. Potlatch operates on a different logic: The purpose of having stuff is to make having stuff possible for others. I invite you to make that your specialty in the coming months. Assume that your own thriving depends on the flourishing of those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sufi poet Rumi wrote about a "treasure in ruins." He meant that what we're searching for may be hidden in places where we would rather not look. Your life isn't in ruins, Libra, but I suspect you may have been exploring exciting locations while shunning mundane ones that actually hold your answers. What do you think? Is that possible? Just for fun, investigate the neglected, ignored and boring places. Try out the hypothesis that a golden discovery awaits you in some unfinished business or a situation you feel an aversion to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your capacity for intensity is your superpower. I love it, I celebrate it and I hope to keep nurturing it in you for as long as we're both here. But not everything deserves the full force of your passionate engagement. Some things are meant to be touched lightly, held loosely and released easily. The question isn't whether to feel deeply—that's who you authentically are—but whether to act on every deep feeling as if it were sacred revelation. Some emotions are weather patterns passing through, not permanent truths requiring upheaval. These are especially key understandings for you to act on during the coming days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): As I have promised you a million times, I will *never* exaggerate. And though you may wonder if the statements I'm about to make are excessive and overblown, I assure you they are not. The fact is, dear Sagittarius, that everything you have always wanted to enhance and upgrade about togetherness is now possible to accomplish and will continue to be for months to come. If you dare to dismantle your outmoded beliefs about love and deep friendship — every

comforting myth, every conditioned response, every inherited instinct — you will discover new dimensions of intimacy that could inspire you forever.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In Renaissance painting, *chiaroscuro* refers to the use of strong contrasts between light and dark. It's a technique that enhances the sense of depth. I believe your life may be in an intense chiaroscuro phase. As your joys grow bright, your doubts appear darker. As your understanding deepens, your perplexity mounts. Is this a problem? I prefer to understand it as an opportunity. For best results, study it closely. Maybe your anxiety is showing you what you care about. Perhaps your sadness is a sign of your growing emotional power. So find a way to benefit from the contrasts, dear Capricorn. Let shadows teach you how to fully appreciate the illumination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are a spy from the future. Thank you for your service! I love to see your boldness as you smuggle innovative ideas into a present that may or may not be ready for them. Your feelings of alienation are sometimes uncomfortable, but they are crucial to the treasure you offer us. You see patterns others miss because you refuse to be hypnotized by consensus reality. Keep up the excellent work, please. May you honor your need to tinker with impossibilities and imagine alternatives to what everyone else imagines is inevitable. You are proof that we don't have to accept inherited structures as inevitable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your unconscious mind is extra communicative, dear Pisces. Hooray! Take advantage! Pay attention to weird images in dreams and songs that linger in your head. Be alert for seemingly random thoughts as they surface. Bypassing logic, your deep psyche is trying to show you ripe secrets and provocative hints. Your duty is to be receptive. So keep a journal or recording device by your bed. Notice which memories rise up out of nowhere. Be grateful for striking coincidences. These are invitations to tune in to meaningful feelings and truths you've been missing.

Homework: I dare you to give yourself a pep talk about a daring possibility. Newsletter.FreeWillAstrology.com

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LOVE & SEX

plus **Date Night**
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

